



BRIDGING RESTORATION AND MULTI-FUNCTIONALITY IN DEGRADED FOREST LANDSCAPE OF
EASTERN AFRICA AND INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

The timber exploitation in Madagascar: from legal to clandestine passing through illegal

The case of the classified forest of Ambohilero, rural commune of Didy

The FOREAIM (Forest Restoration in Eastern Africa, Indian Ocean islands and Madagascar) project is aimed at limiting degradation and enhancing the restoration of ecosystems for local populations and with their participation.

Introduction

The classified forest of Ambohilero is stretching over about 117 000 ha. It has been classified by the decree n°2382 MAP/FOR of october 30th, 1962 and its conditions of exploitation has been noticed to progress in two decades.

Madagascar map, Region Alaotra-Mangoro
CR Didy and FC Ambohilero



TABLE 1: CONTEXT AND EVOLUTION OF THE FOREST LOGGING

Date	Context et evolution of the forest	Illegal forest exploitation
1988-1993	Weak forest exploitation	In parallel with legal exploitation-logging beyond the authorised site
1993	Reopening of the way to get to Didy	
1998	Decree 98-782 relating to the forest exploitation regime	
1997-2002	Intensification of the legal forest exploitation	
2000	Ministerial decree n° 12702/2000 of the suspension of exploitation licence issue	
2002-2006	Forest managed by the projects CI, PPPVB / FFEM	Temporary halt
2006-2007	Sustainable exploitation by the VOI as part of the PPPVB	In parallel with legal exploitation of the VOI and in various clandestine form in the site managed by CI

CI: Conservation International
PPPVB / FFEM: Pilot Project of biodiversity promotion and protection supported by the French Funds for World environment
VOI: Vondron'olona ifotany ou CI: Local community

- This exploitation processus sequence, at first legal, then illegal and at last clandestine shows/explains the difficulties that the forest administration encounters in their efforts for a sustainable forest management,
- The CI sites have been the object of clandestine forest exploitation in spite of the banning included in the management transfer contract.

Materials and methods

The economic data have been collected through the interviews carried out among 23 stakeholders involved in the chain analysis and 9 persons outside it. The data analysis has been made by using the chain analysis approach.

Historical process of the management of Ambohilero forest

From 1988 to 1997, the number of active legal loggers increases from 3 to 15 and the plot surface from 439 to 5 923 ha (Randriambohanjintatovo, 1997) but the surface actually covered by forest exploitation was much superior due to illegal logging.

TABLE 2: MANAGEMENT MODES AND CONTROL

Date	Organismes	Types of contract	Management modes	Forest control
2002-2006	CI	Decree 2001-122 on the GCF	Conservation in 8 VOI	Forest administration
2002-2007	PPPVB / FFEM	Order n°96-025 GELOSE and decree n°98-782	Sustainable exploitation in 10 VOI	Decentralised associating VOI, Commune and forest administration

GCF: Gestion contractuelle des Forêts (Contractual management of forests)
GELOSE: Gestion Locale Sécurisée des ressources naturelles renouvelables (Securised local management of renewable natural resources)
PAGS: Plan d'Aménagement de Gestion Simplifié (Simplified management plan)

Sustainable exploitation:

- Exploitation of tree species all species taken together having reached the diameter minimum of exploitation (DME: Diamètre Minimum d'Exploitableté) up to 50 cm, annual quota of tree, cutting rotation of 60 years etc),
- Making profits for the local timber cutter,
- Involving the VOI in the management and the control of the timber specie's flows.

Legal forest logging means cutting by respecting the PAGS.

Illegal forest logging means cutting beyond the quota and the plots.

Clandestine forest logging or «drodraka» means cutting outside all the laws in force.

Terminology precision

Results

- Which is sold at 80 000 ariary (32 euros) in 2008 which was 30 000 ariary (20 euros) in 2000,
- The family ties between the community local member limit the village autocontrol on illegal and clandestine exploitation,
- The forest service, in addition to the harsh problems of some agents, does not do his job due to lack of means and cannot insure his tasks in some non-transferred sites or the CI conservation contracts,
- The illegal logging is inserted in the functioning of the local society,
- Administration agents "are getting tired" (where the word «drodraka » is from) after having run after the delinquent loggers.



TABLE 3: THE CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH TYPE OF FOREST LOGGING (FL) IN 2008

Types	Legal FL	Illegal FL	Clandestine FL	Clandestine and occasional FL	Apparently legal FL
Statut of logger	Members of the VOI sustainable logging	Members of the VOI sustainable logging	Members of the VOI sustainable logging	Collectors of farm produce	Legal logger from 1988 to 2004
Strategies	Respect of the quota as foreseen in the PAGS	Exceeding the quota authorised by the PAGS	Tree mark done by the agent (non authorised) and transportation of the products at night	Dissimulation of the timbers below farm produce	Palisandre logging by using a false VOI
Maximal estimative volume (m³)	455 per year	No estimative figure	15 per week	45 per week	45-75 per week

Conclusions

- There is a significant demand of timber especially in the market of Antananarivo,
- It is no use to believe that it is possible to decree a logging banning,
- The management efforts must continue by associating the local population, the Service forest agents of any levels and the Communes for the setting up of a decentralised forest control and improve the local stakeholder incomes (mainly the timber cutter).



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